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NIA VARDALOS' SOFT SPOT

The 'Big Fat Greek Wedding' star lives for 'loser stories.' 12



Why this is already the best
NCAA tourney ever. 19

Michael Carbonaro's moral code. 15

BANDING WITH BRUSSELS

The world is reeling after ISIS terrorists stole the lives of at least
30 people in suicide attacks in the Belgian capital. 2 & 12



A local holds a rose while others ignite candles at Beursplein Square following Tuesday's attacks. GETTY IMAGES

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

US CHARGES THREE SYRIAN HACKERS: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

U.S. authorities have charged three Syrian nationals who are current or former members of the Syrian Electronic Army with multiple conspiracies related to computer hacking, the Justice Department said Tuesday. Ahmad Umar Agha, 22, and Firas Dardar, 27, were charged with a criminal conspiracy that included "a hoax regarding a terrorist attack" and "attempting to cause mutiny of the U.S. armed forces," the department said in a statement. Dardar and Peter Romar, 36, were separately charged with other conspiracies, including extortion and wire fraud, it said. The FBI said in the statement it was adding Agha and Dardar to its Cyber Most Wanted list and offering a reward of \$100,000 for information leading to their arrest. **REUTERS**

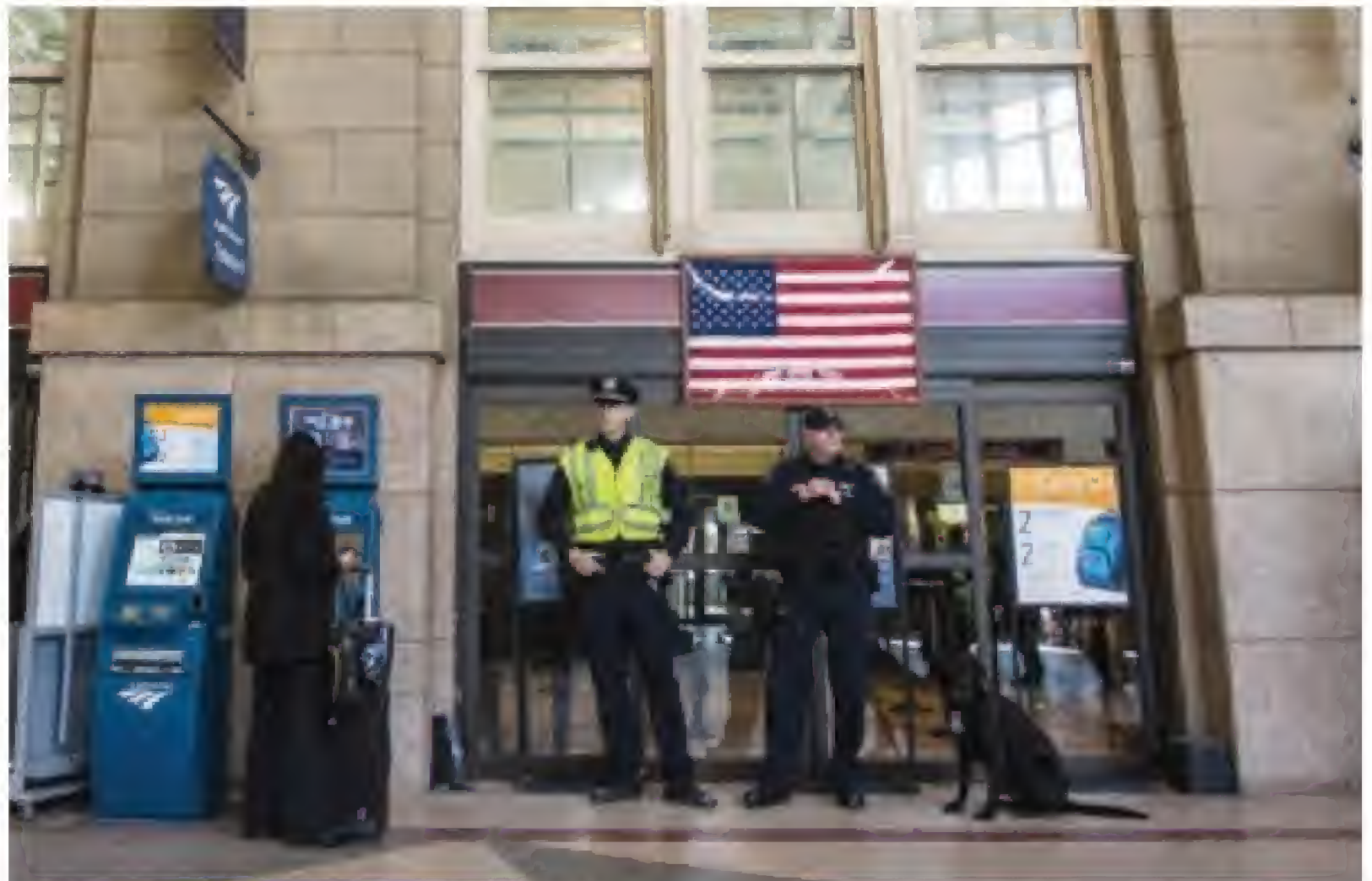


RUSSIAN COURT SENTENCES UKRAINIAN PILOT TO 22 YEARS IN JAIL

2 A Russian court sentenced Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko to 22 years in jail Tuesday after finding her guilty of involvement in the killing of two Russian journalists during the separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said his country would never recognize the verdict of what he labeled a "kangaroo court" and called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to send Savchenko back to Ukraine. Fighting in eastern Ukraine has subsided since a fragile cease-fire was agreed, but Savchenko's trial showed the depth of bitterness that remains. Savchenko, 34, is a national hero in Ukraine but many in Russia see her as a Ukrainian nationalist with the blood of civilians on her hands. **REUTERS**

UBER OFFERS HACKERS 'TREASURE MAP' TO FIND COMPUTER FLAWS

3 Uber, the high-flying transportation firm, is releasing a technical map of its computer and communications systems and inviting hackers to find weaknesses in exchange for cash bounties. While "bug bounties" are not new, Uber's move is an example of how mainstream companies are increasingly relying on independent computer researchers to help them bolster their systems. Uber's "Treasure Map" details the ride-hailing company's software infrastructure, identifies what sorts of data might be exposed inadvertently and suggests which types of flaws are the most likely to be found. **REUTERS**



Officers and a police dog patrol Boston train stations. **DEREK HOUYOUNIAN**

Security beefed up around Boston after attacks in Brussels

The added measures include expanded security by both MBTA Police and Massachusetts State Police in transportation hubs around the city.

SPENCER BUELL
and **MATTHEW LEE**
spencerbuell@metro.us

Boston was expected to be on high alert this week with extra security measures put in place across the city after three explosions took the lives of at least 30 people in Brussels.

The security measures include expanded security by both MBTA Police and Massachusetts State Police in transportation hubs around the city, with additional officers stationed at Logan Airport and T stations.

"Out of an abundance of caution, MBTA personnel and police

are stepping up their vigilance and visibility today," Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority spokesman Joe Pesaturo said. "The 'See Something, Say Something' message is being heard throughout the system to encourage customers to report any unusual activity."

State and city officials and law enforcement have said there is no reason to believe Boston is at risk, but security measures would be in place regardless.

"As always, a multi-layered security plan is in place at the airports and seaports," state police spokesman David Procopio said in a state-

"While there has been no credible threat to MA, security has been strengthened for our public transit systems and airports."

Baker on Twitter

ment. "While we do not discuss specific tactics and deployments, security operations at those facilities is constantly evolving to address current situational awareness."

"There is no known threat credible or otherwise against the #MBTA, TPD officers will be highly visible & vigilant," the MBTA Transit Police tweeted.

"While there has been no credible threat to MA, security has been strengthened for our public transit systems and airports," tweeted Gov. Charlie Baker, adding that state and federal officials were sharing information.

Three Mass. college students were at Brussels airport

Three college students from Massachusetts were at Brussels' airport at the time of Tuesday's attacks, according to NBC Connecticut.

The students have been identified as Kate Duffy, 19, of Natick; Lauren Cleary, 19, of Abington; and Monica Hall, 19, of Sutton, NBC reported. They are safe and unharmed.

According to WTNH, they are all occupational therapy majors at Quinnipiac University who were studying abroad in Ireland and had just spent spring break in Brussels.

At the time of the attack the students fled from the airport and were saved when a local man offered them a ride to the U.S. Embassy, NBC Connecticut reported. Once there, the students called their parents to let them know they were safe. **MATTHEW LEE**

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'Mixed emotions' as Cambridge prepares for ban on plastic bags

"Bring Your Own Bag" law takes effect March 31.

SPENCER BUELL
@Metro805
spencer.buell@metro.us

Soon, Cambridge shoppers' routines of taking home groceries in petroleum-based products will float away like a plastic bag in the wind.

The city on Thursday, March 31 will join three other Massachusetts communities when a ban takes effect eliminating plastic bags with handles at grocery stores, pharmacies and other shops.

Customers instead will have to bring their own reusable bags or choose paper at a charge of 10 cents per bag, according to an ordinance the city passed in March of 2015.

Stores have been preparing for the change over the past few months — and hearing a blend of understanding and outrage from customers.

"I think everybody has mixed emotions about it," said Diana Cerretani, who owns and manages the Evergood Super Market on Massachusetts Avenue. "Some people don't care. Other people are up in arms about it. They're not crazy about having to spend a dime to buy a bag when they've never had to before."

She said she stopped ordering plastic bags months ago but still picks up smaller packages of



Reusable bags are on sale beside plastic bags at a grocery store. **DEREK KOKUYUMMAN**

the products at local distributors. Finding enough stock of reusable bags has been a challenge, she said, adding that she's still looking for a sturdy, cheap product to offer at the checkout line.

Another obstacle, Cerretani said: convincing customers to lug groceries home in paper during inclement weather. Paper gets soggy and rips in the rain — plastic doesn't.

"But you know, it is what it is," she said. "A lot of people don't like change but everybody will eventually get used to it."

Breaching the new "Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance," enforced by the Department of Public Works, could lead to

a \$300 fine. But Michael Orr, the DPW's bag ban program director, said the city doesn't expect to have to crack down.

"We're not looking to be punitive," Orr told Metro. "We're working

officials have said the ban would reduce non-biodegradable litter and cut down on plastic in waterways, while also driving down demand for fossil fuels.

The ordinance allows

The city has also set aside 10,000 reusable bags to be distributed for free to seniors public housing facilities.

When it takes effect, Cambridge will be the largest city with a plastic bag ban on the East Coast.

It could also influence bans in other communities, or ideally a statewide

ban, Vice Mayor Marc McGovern said — just as Cambridge led the way in banning smoking in restaurants and raising the minimum age to buy cigarettes.

"We'll see how our program goes. ... I'm not saying we're necessarily the model people should follow at this point, but we think we did a good job

on this," McGovern said. "If it's really going to help the environment in the way we hope it does, it's going to take every community to do it."

Plastic containers and wrappers for meats and produce will still be legal, as will plastic bags for laundry and newspapers.

Newton, Brookline and Manchester-by-the-Sea already have plastic bag bans. At Harvest Co-Op Markets, which is also on Mass. Ave., customers looking for plastic bags have been out of luck for a while now.

Assistant manager Michael Johnson said the store gave out the last of its stock in October.

Management also got ahead of the ban by putting up signs, talking customers through the change and offering discount Harvest-branded reusable bags: at 99 cents rather than the usual \$1.99.

"Absolutely people were upset," Johnson said. "The common grievances were not having plastic bags for kitty litter, not having plastic bags for when it rains."

But the shift is about being more eco-friendly, which is a message that does resonate for most customers, Johnson said.

"We try to be as understanding as possible. We try to say, 'We apologize for the inconvenience, but we're hoping that in the long run it will work to the benefit of all of us in the future.'"

"If it's really going to help the environment in the way we hope it does, it's going to take every community to do it." McGovern

to try to make sure they understand the ordinance and that they understand the benefits for them and for the customer and for the environment."

The city has been advertising the change by distributing fliers, stickers at cash registers and posters on sandwich boards in busy city squares.

Advocates and city

store owners to apply for exemptions while they deplete their stock of bags. The DPW granted about two dozen such exemptions, mostly to small businesses with a few months worth of bags still remaining in storage, Orr said.

"A few plastic bags will still be floating around Cambridge," he said.



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Massachusetts home sales increase as prices decline

February saw a 31 percent increase in Massachusetts home sales with 2,868 single-family homes sold during the month.



JASON NUCKOLLS
@MetroBOS
letters@metro.us

Massachusetts home sales jumped greatly in February, but monthly prices have gotten lower for the first time since 2014.

February saw a 31 percent increase in Massachusetts home sales with 2,868 single-family homes sold during the month, the Boston Globe reported.

As the sales figures increased to the highest level for February since 2005, median home prices declined by about



Home sales in the state are on the rise. FILE PHOTO

4 percent to \$299,000, the Globe added. The average price last February was \$310,500.

Real estate information tracking firm the Warren Group, which released the data, said that condominiums show a similar situation with increased sales but decreased median prices,

according to an Associated Press article reported by CBS Boston.

"I think there's pent-up demand for housing, but people aren't willing to spend beyond their personal income," Timothy Warren, the chief executive of the Warren Group, was quoted by the Globe.

Existing home sales declined nationally by 7.1 percent in February, according to a National Association of Realtors report referenced by the Globe. The national median housing price, unlike in Massachusetts, increased to \$210,800 from \$201,900 a year earlier.

BRIEFS

Suspect crashes stolen car in Wenham, is found hiding in sand bunker

Wenham police arrested a man who was found hiding in a golf course sand bunker after fleeing a car crash where authorities uncovered cash, cellphones and marijuana.

Police Chief Thomas Perkins has said that Wenham police arrested Daniel Ballentine, 22, of Saugus, on various charges after he allegedly wrecked a stolen Mercedes then ran from the scene only to be discovered in a sand bunker.

Around 10:45 p.m. on Saturday, Wenham firefighters saw a black Mercedes speeding on Arbor Street before it struck a tree at the Wenham Town Hall, police reported. Firefighters saw a man and woman fleeing the crash scene.

After finding the woman nearby, authorities used a K-9 unit to locate the man, Daniel Ballentine, as he hid in a sand bunker at the Wenham Country Club, officials stated.

At the scene of the car crash, police said they uncovered more than \$22,000 in cash sealed in a plastic bag, several cellphones and a noncriminal amount of marijuana.

Ballentine was held by Wenham police before his arraignment in Ipswich District Court on charges including operating to endanger, using a motor vehicle without authority and leaving an accident scene. JASON NUCKOLLS

12-year-old boy assaulted and robbed at bus stop in Newton

A young boy was assaulted and robbed while he was on his way to a bus stop Monday in Newton, WHDH reported.

The 12-year-old boy was reportedly on his way to the bus stop on Lexington Street around 9 a.m. when a man got off an MBTA bus and approached him.

"The boy told police that the man approached him from behind and then confronted him, demanding his cellphone. Then the child was able to see that the man had a large knife in his hand," Fox 29 reported.

After a brief struggle, the boy was knocked to the ground, and the suspect made off with his cellphone. With the help of other children, the young boy went to school where he reported the incident. He was taken to Boston Children's Hospital.

According to Fox 29, the stolen phone was located in Waltham. MATTHEW LEE

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Respect My Vote! campaign looks to engage beyond Election Day



The Rev. Lennox Yearwood
SHANA SCHNUR PHOTOGRAPHY

The purpose of the campaign is to push individuals to get involved in all elections that can shape their communities.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

With Election Day just months away, one campaign is hoping to encourage individuals to get off the sidelines and let their

voices be heard.

The Hip Hop Caucus — a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization which connects the hip-hop community to young people and members of urban communities to motivate participation in the civic process — launched Tuesday its 2016 Respect My Vote! campaign.

The non-partisan campaign, which first kicked off during the 2008 elections, aims to help register, educate and organize voters between the ages of 18 to 40 years old.

"This campaign is focused on getting excitement around the process," said the Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr., president and CEO of the Hip Hop

Caucus, who was in New York City to launch the campaign. "Getting disenfranchised communities to know that their voice matters."

As part of the process to encourage voter registration and activism, the campaign has been enlisting the help of celebrities who serve

"It's the first step but it's a major first step, because it then says not only are you going to vote, you are going to hold whoever wins accountable and measurable," Yearwood said.

Unlike in previous years, social media will play a large role in getting people involved with

these huge problems."

Although the campaign is launching in time to encourage people to vote in this year's upcoming presidential election, Yearwood said that the overall purpose of the campaign is to push individuals to get involved in all elections that can shape their communities and lives.

He added that it is important for voters to get to know about the policies, how candidates address each policy

and become active citizens.

"We want people to engage in the process. When people engage, it helps democracy overall," he said. "We want people to be engaged up to Election Day and post-Election Day."

And for people who might feel like their vote doesn't matter or opt out of voting, Yearwood reminds them that it is not only the vote that counts — it's each of them as individuals.

"You can't really sit on the sideline during this process," he said. "You matter, not just your vote."

"You can't really sit on the sideline during this process. You matter, not just your vote."

Yearwood

as representatives for the campaign and also help reach out to a larger crowd of potential voters.

Previous celebrities involved in the campaign included T.I. and 2 Chainz.

This year's first celebrity spokesman is Charlamagne Tha God, the host of the radio show "The Breakfast Club" and star of MTV2's "Uncommon Sense with Charlamagne Tha God."

According to Yearwood, getting celebrities to participate makes engaging in the process more exciting for some people and pushes other to get out and vote.

the campaign, using the hashtag #RespectMyVote and also having a large presence both on the campaign and Hip Hop Caucus' websites.

Yearwood added that he encourages individuals to also use a form of expression they feel comfortable with — such as poetry or music — to express themselves.

"For this generation of young people, they view this election process as very important," Yearwood said. "This is a unique generation, I wouldn't say they are quite revolutionary, they are 'solutionary.' They want to find solutions to

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Mass of the Lord's Supper (Trilingual) 7:00 PM
Adoration after Mass until 10:00 PM

Good Friday, March 25th

Lord's Passion (English) 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM
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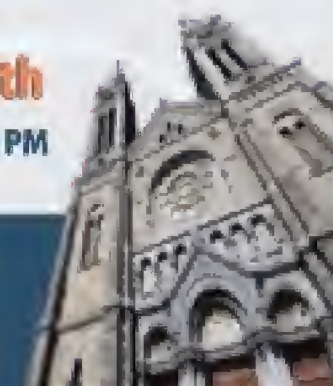
Holy Saturday, March 26th

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President Obama urges political and economic change in speech to Cubans

Taking the stage at Havana's Grand Theater, Obama used the crowning moment of his visit to extend a "hand of friendship." He came, he said, to "bury the last remnant" of the Cold War in the Americas.

President Barack Obama challenged Cuba's Communist government with an impassioned call for democratic and economic change on Tuesday, addressing the Cuban people directly in a historic speech broadcast throughout the island.

Obama pressed hard for economic and political reforms and greater openness, speaking in

a one-party state where little dissent is tolerated.

His speech was the high point of a trip made possible by his agreement with Cuban President Raul Castro in December 2014 to cast aside decades of hostility that began soon after Cuba's 1959 revolution, and work to normalize relations. Nonetheless, Obama minced no words in his calls for change.

"I believe citizens should be free to speak their minds without fear," Obama told the audience.

"Not everybody agrees with me on this, not everybody agrees with the American people on this but I believe those human rights are universal. I believe they're the rights of the American people, the Cuban people and people around the world,"

"Voters should be able to choose their governments in free and democratic elections."

Obama

Obama said.

While he urged an end to the longstanding U.S. economic embargo on the island, Obama added that "even if we lifted the embargo tomorrow, Cubans would not realize their potential without continued change here in Cuba."

The scene of the leader of the United States, the superpower to the north once routinely re-

viled by the Cuban government, standing on Cuban soil urging such changes would have been unthinkable before the two countries began their rapprochement.

For years, Cuban leaders told American presidents to mind their own business. Indeed, Castro has been careful to state since the detente that it does not mean Cuba plans to change its political system, and that while his government is open to discuss any issue, it has to be with mutual respect.

Tuesday's audience of more than a 1,000 people was made up of invited guests of the U.S. and Cuban governments. They included officials and business people of both countries, visiting U.S. lawmakers and members of Cuba's cultural elite. **REUTERS**



President Barack Obama delivers remarks at the Gran Teatro de la Habana Alicia Alonso in the historic Habana Vieja, or Old Havana, neighborhood on Tuesday in Havana, Cuba. **GETTY IMAGES**



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Beetle's chemical signal tells mate, 'Honey, I'm not in the mood'

When a female "burying beetle" is focused on caring for babies and not making new ones, she releases a chemical signal to her libidinous mate that says in no uncertain terms, "Honey, I'm not in the mood."

Scientists described on Tuesday how these females employ an anti-aphrodisiac chemical known as a pheromone during a three-day period critical for raising offspring to tell the male she is temporary infertile and prevent him from trying to copulate.

The study focused on a beetle species, *Nicrophorus vespilloides*, known for burying carcasses of small animals like birds and rodents as food for their larvae. It provides insight into how animals change their behavior



to provide care for their young, in this instance favoring parenting over sexual activity to produce new offspring.

"Our study helps to understand animal family life and how it is coordinated between family members," said biologist Sandra Steiger of Germany's University of Ulm, who led the study published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

"It is kind of intriguing that such mechanisms exist in animals and that animal parents synchronize their mating and parental-care behavior for their own benefit and that of the children," Steiger added.

Burying beetles are found mainly in temperate regions of Europe, Asia and North America. **REUTERS**



Former Toronto Mayor Rob Ford GETTY IMAGES

Rob Ford dies of cancer at 46

The Toronto city councillor, 46, had been undergoing treatment for an aggressive form of cancer that had recurred despite surgery and several rounds of chemotherapy.

Rob Ford, the former mayor of Toronto who gained global notoriety for admitting to smoking crack cocaine while in office, died from cancer on Tuesday, his office said in a statement.

During his tumultuous 2010-14 tenure as

mayor of Canada's most populous city, Ford admitted to smoking crack cocaine, buying illegal drugs and driving after drinking alcohol.

He was diagnosed in September 2014 with pleomorphic liposarcoma, a rare and hard-to-treat cancer found in soft, fatty tissue of the body, after he was admitted to a hospital with abdominal pain.

The man who replaced Ford as mayor, John Tory, offered his condolences, calling Ford "a man who spoke his mind and who ran for office because of the deeply felt convictions that he had."

REUTERS

BRIEF

Netanyahu hopes US will reject UN resolution on Palestinian statehood

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday he hoped the United States would continue to reject any move towards a U.N. Security Council resolution backing Palestinian statehood.

"A Security Council resolution to pressure Israel would further harden Palestinian positions and thereby could actually kill the chances of peace for many, many years," he told a meeting

of the powerful American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) lobbying group.

Netanyahu's speech returned the conference focus to policy after a turn to partisan politics on Monday when Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump took to the stage and denounced President Barack Obama, a Democrat.

AIPAC's leaders distanced the group from his remarks before Netanyahu's speech on Tuesday.

REUTERS

BRIEF

US says it may not need Apple to open San Bernardino iPhone

U.S. prosecutors said that a "third party" had presented a possible method for opening an encrypted iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino shooters, a development that could bring an abrupt end to the high-stakes legal showdown between the government and Apple.

A federal judge in Riverside, California, agreed to the government's request to postpone a

hearing scheduled for Tuesday so that the FBI could try the newly discovered technique. The Justice Department said it would update the court on April 5.

The government had insisted until Monday that it had no way to access the phone used by Rizwan Farook, one of the two killers in the December massacre in San Bernardino, California, except to force Apple to write new software that would disable the password protection.

The Justice Department last month obtained a court order directing Apple to create that software, but Apple has fought back, arguing that the order is an overreach by the government and would undermine computer security for everyone.

The announcement on Monday that an unnamed third party had presented a way of breaking into the phone on Sunday — just two days before the hearing and after weeks of heated back-and-

forth in court filings — drew skepticism from many in the tech community who have insisted that there were other ways to get into the phone.

"From a purely technical perspective, one of the most fragile parts of the government's case is the claim that Apple's help is required to unlock the phone," said Matt Blaze, a professor and computer security expert at the University of Pennsylvania.

REUTERS

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Police hunt suspect after Islamic State kills 30 in Brussels suicide attacks

Officials said 20 died on the metro train close to European Union institutions, and Islamic State said that too was a suicide attack.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for suicide bomb attacks on Brussels airport and a rush-hour metro train in the Belgian capital on Tuesday which killed at least 30 people, with police hunting a suspect who fled the air terminal.

Police issued a wanted notice for a young man in a hat who was caught on CCTV pushing a laden luggage trolley at Zaventem airport alongside two others who, investigators said, had later blown themselves up in the terminal, killing at least 10 people.

The coordinated assault triggered security alerts across Europe and drew global expressions of support, four days after Brussels police had captured the prime surviving suspect in Islamic State's attacks on Paris last November.

Belgian authorities were still checking whether the attacks were linked to the arrest of Salah Abdeslam, according to Federal Prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw, although U.S. officials said the level of organization involved suggested they had previously been in preparation.

Last week, explosives and an Islamic flag were found during a raid on a Brussels flat. Police also found a fresh fingerprint of Abdeslam's there, putting them on to his trail. It was not clear if Abdeslam had been involved at that stage in planning the airport attack.

In a statement, Islamic State said "caliphate soldiers, strapped with suicide vests and carrying explosive devices and machine guns" had targeted the airport and metro station, adding that they had set off their vests amidst the crowds.

A bomb and an Islamic



Passengers are evacuated from Zaventem Bruxelles International Airport after terrorist attacks. GETTY IMAGES



Paramedics hospitalize a wounded victim. GETTY IMAGES

State flag were also found on Tuesday in a flat in Brussels, and Van Leeuw confirmed a manhunt was under way. "A photograph of three male suspects was taken at Zaventem. Two of them seem to have committed suicide attacks. The third, wearing a light-colored jacket and a hat, is actively being sought," he told a news conference.

A government official said the third suspect had been seen running away from the airport building. Local media reported police had found an undetonated suicide vest in the area.

After questioning Abdeslam, police issued a wanted notice on Monday, identifying 25-year-old Najim Laachraoui as linked to the Paris attacks. The poor quality of Tuesday's CCTV images and of the Laachraoui wanted poster left open whether he might be the person caught on the airport cameras.

Citizens of the United States, Spain and Sweden were among the injured, their governments reported.

Belgian media published the security camera picture of three young

men pushing laden luggage trolleys. Police later issued a cropped version of the same photograph, showing only one of the three.

"If you recognize this individual or if you have information on this attack, please contact the investigators," the notice read. "Discretion assured."

Police operations were under way at several points in the city but a lockdown imposed immediately after the attacks was eased and commuters and students headed home as public transport partially reopened.

Belgium, home to the EU and the headquarters of the NATO military alliance, has sent warplanes to take part in operations against Islamic State in the Middle East.

Austrian Horst Pilger, who was awaiting a flight with his family when the attackers struck, said his children had thought fireworks were going off, but he instantly knew an assault was underway.

"My wife and I both thought 'bomb.' We looked into each other's eyes," he told Reuters. "Five or 10 seconds later

there was a major, major, major blast in close vicinity. It was massive."

Pilger, who works at the European Commission, said the whole ceiling collapsed and smoke flooded the building.

Security services found and destroyed a third bomb at the airport.

Alphonse Youla, 40, who works at the airport, told Reuters he heard a man shouting out in Arabic before the first explosion. "Then the glass ceiling of the airport collapsed." REUTERS

Nine Americans injured in Brussels attacks: ABC News

Nine Americans were injured in suicide bomb attacks on Brussels airport and a metro train on Tuesday, ABC News reported on Twitter.

The ABC News report did not give further details.

Three Mormon missionaries from Utah and a U.S. Air Force member and his family were among the Americans hurt in the deadly bomb attacks, government and church officials have said.

"I helped carry out five people dead, their legs destroyed."

Youla

US top court wrestles with Puerto Rico restructuring case



Old San Juan, Puerto Rico GETTY IMAGES

Liberal justices on Tuesday signaled support for Puerto Rico as the U.S. Supreme Court considered whether to revive a law that could let the U.S. territory cut billions of dollars owed in debt at some public agencies, a key test in the island's efforts to weather a huge fiscal crisis.

It was unclear how the court will rule on whether the Caribbean island's 2014 law known as the Recovery Act, which was invalidated by U.S. courts, conflicts with U.S. federal bankruptcy law. Puerto Rico faces what its governor has called an unpayable \$70 billion in debt.

Only seven justices heard the arguments in the case. Justice Antonin Scalia died in February and has not yet been replaced. Justice Samuel Alito recused himself.

In 1984, Congress said Puerto Rico, as a U.S. territory, could not use bankruptcy laws that govern U.S. states. But federal bankruptcy law also dictates that no state can pass local debt-restructuring laws, and in one provision Puerto Rico is defined as a state.

"Why would Congress put Puerto Rico in this never-never land?"

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Fellow liberal Elena Kagan said that before the oral argument she favored the creditors' position, but after hearing from Puerto Rico's lawyer she found the territory's arguments to be equally compelling.

"Both of you have stories. ... It's just not clear which one is right," Kagan said.

The only justice who expressed outright hostility to Puerto Rico's position was conservative Chief Justice John Roberts, who said he was not sure the territory's argument "carries much weight."

As Puerto Rico's leaders, creditors and U.S. lawmakers seek a debt solution in the U.S. Congress, the question before the Supreme Court is

whether the island should be allowed to restructure certain debts under a court-supervised regime similar to Chapter 9 bankruptcy laws used by U.S. cities such as Detroit and Stockton, California.

The Recovery Act would not apply to all of Puerto Rico's debt, but would let it put public entities, such as power authority PREPA, into bankruptcy.

Two U.S. court decisions deemed the Recovery Act invalid after PREPA creditors sued, with the Supreme Court agreeing in December to hear an appeal.

The Supreme Court case's outcome could threaten a hard-fought, consensual restructuring at PREPA, where creditors holding most of the utility's \$8.3 billion in debt agreed to take 15 percent reductions in payouts.

Reinstating the Recovery Act could allow Puerto Rico to scrap that deal and instead put PREPA into bankruptcy, where it could impose deeper cuts and bind holdout creditors to the deal.

The Supreme Court is due to rule by the end of June. **REUTERS**

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BRIEF

Poll: Apple's privacy fight does not win extra points for security

Most Americans trust Apple to protect their personal information from hackers, according to a national Reuters/Ipsos poll, but not any better than rivals Google, Amazon and Microsoft.

The results of the poll were

released, in the middle of a legal battle between Apple and the Justice Department over a judge's order that Apple write new software to disable passcode protection on the iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino, California, shooters.

The two sides were set to

face off in court on Tuesday, but late on Monday a federal judge in Riverside, California, agreed to the government's request to postpone the hearing after U.S. prosecutors said that a "third party" had presented a possible method for opening an encrypted iPhone. **REUTERS**

Justin Bieber wants to be your drunken life coach

Hey, man — Justin Bieber has a beautiful plan for your life, OK? He's even dabbling in some motivational — if slightly intoxicated — speaking, if his recent L.A. concert is any indication. And just what is the main thrust of Bieber's life philosophy? Just, like, be yourself, yeah? "Let's be ourselves. I think the thing the world struggles with most is just being ourselves. I think people hate on people that just are themselves," Bieber said during a break from the evening's tunes. "Maybe I'm drunk, maybe I'm just speaking real s—t.

But I feel like a lot of the reason why so many people hate on me is 'cause I'm just myself. You can hate on me for being myself, too, but I feel like if you just are yourself and are OK with being just yourself and making spontaneous decisions of just wearing whatever you want to wear and doing whatever you want to do ... you're going to make bad decisions sometimes but you ultimately want to make good decisions, so let's try to make the best decisions we can possibly know or feel and let's have a good night." Got all that?



Beyoncé wants an empire of her own

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

A lot of married couples argue over things, but most probably don't squabble over whose record label is more successful. But then again, most people aren't Beyoncé and Jay Z. There's reportedly new strife between Blue Ivy's parents because Beyoncé has new plans to turn her own entertainment entity, Parkwood Entertainment, into a big, big

deal. "She really wants to turn Parkwood into an empire now," a source tells Radar Online. "There is a lot of jealousy right now between Beyoncé and Jay Z because her career is at a superhigh point and, unfortunately, Jay Z has been relatively stagnant in his own career in comparison." Maybe he shouldn't have announced his retirement so many times?

the word

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Kim Kardashian is suspicious of her family keeping up with her

You know you've reached peak conspicuous consumption when even Kim Kardashian takes notice, but that's apparently what's happening at the family compound, as the proto Kardashian is curious as to why all her family members are doing so very well — and it's making her suspicious of mom-ager Kris Jenner. "Kim feels like there are millions of dollars in question because Kris finances everyone's lavish lifestyle," a source says, noting that "everyone is suddenly getting Rolls Royces and mansions," according to the National Enquirer. "Kim feels Kris' spending

is out of control, so she is doing an accounting because she's the only one bringing in that kind of money and thinks it's weird that everyone in the family is enjoying an extravagant lifestyle that seems to be beyond their individual means," the source explains. "She thinks millions of dollars are missing. Kim wants to be more hands-on to find out where the money is being allocated. She is starting to take an inventory to try to get to the bottom of this." So get ready for some hot accounting action, TV fans.



Kate Middleton is a classy gift-giver

What do you get the woman who has everything — including the throne of a major world power? That was exactly the conundrum Kate Middleton faced back at Christmas 2011, when she was heading to the home of her new grandmother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth II, for the holidays and needed to bring just the right gift. "I was worried what to give the queen as her Christmas present. I was thinking, 'Gosh, what should I give her?' the

duchess says in a new TV documentary celebrating the queen's 90th birthday. "I thought back to what would I give my own grandparents and I thought, 'I'll make her something,' which could have gone horribly wrong. But I decided to make my granny's recipe of chutney. I was slightly worried about it, but I noticed the next day that it was on the table." Sure, but these are British people. That doesn't necessarily mean she liked it.



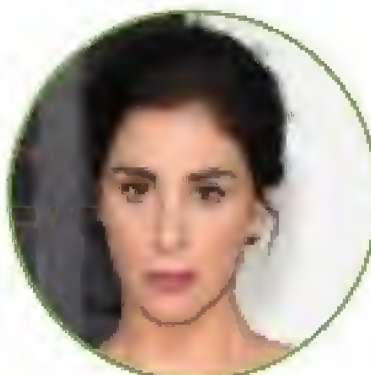
@HaileeSteinfeld

I am getting so excited for my trip to Australia, Japan and the Philippines!



@PamGrier

Be safe, smart and stealth my friends and Tweetie Pies in Brussels. Peace be still.



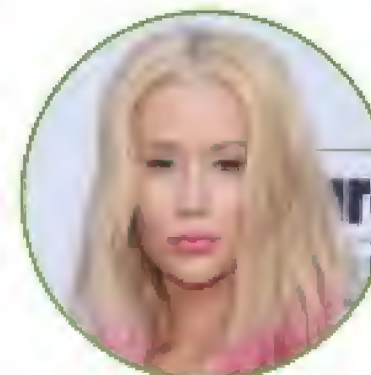
@SarahKSilverman

Voter fraud is virtually non-existent. Voter suppression laws r ONLY made to keep dems (students/Afr Amrcns) from voting. F—ing shameful



@lenadunham

I haven't pegged but I also haven't not pegged. College was weird.



@IGGYAZALEA

I hate when you download a movie for the plane on your laptop. Then when you go to watch it id flight you realize you forgot headphones.



@kirstiealley

A question: If governments have identified "sympathizers" why aren't they immediately deported or exiled? Lots of BIG islands out there

Magically moral

"The Carbonaro Effect" star wants to eliminate con man lingo from set.



RACHEL RACZKA
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Michael Carbonaro uses his magic for good — not evil. The truTV prankster regularly pulls the rug out from under unsuspecting everyday people on his hidden camera TV show, but he wants you to know that he means well.

"I have a really strict moral code as to what's fair game and what's not," the 33-year-old New York native tells us. "It's a playful trap, not a surprise you're falling into. Words like 'target' or a 'mark' or 'trap,' they all feel negative, and if anything makes the show — magic and my own B.S. aside — it's the people and how they react. They're the hero and the star of the show. A 'mark' implies a decoy or a dunce, and I want to let them shine. The more they talk, the better the trick is."

The second season of "The Carbonaro Effect" premieres March

23, and the magician/improv artist — who disguises himself as a clerk, service provider or other professional for each spot — puts his co-stars in seemingly unbelievable situations. For example: a farmers' market juicer who produces gallons of OJ from a single fruit. Or a local dog washer who compresses pups into discs the size of a vinyl record. The reactions are as ridiculous as Carbonaro's backstories, but the popularity of his show has made it harder for him to go unrecognized.

"It's a good thing if you like wearing wigs," he laughs. "I wore a bunch of characters this season and we'd try to be savvy about it, but if people know about the show already, I find flat denial works. I had someone just tell me, 'Oh you remind me of Michael Carbonaro.' And I was like, 'Who is that? I don't watch TV,' and I can still lead them down the path of believing."

Plus, everyone loves a little magic — even Shaq. Carbonaro met the retired NBA megastar Shaquille O'Neal during a press junket, heard he was a fan of



PROVIDED

the show and decided to get him involved. O'Neal guest stars in the season premiere, playing along with a prank involving a kitchen product endorsement that goes awry. Plus — Carbonaro adds, "I just love that Shaq is my lovely assistant."

The second season of "The Carbonaro Effect" premieres March 23 at 10 p.m. on truTV.

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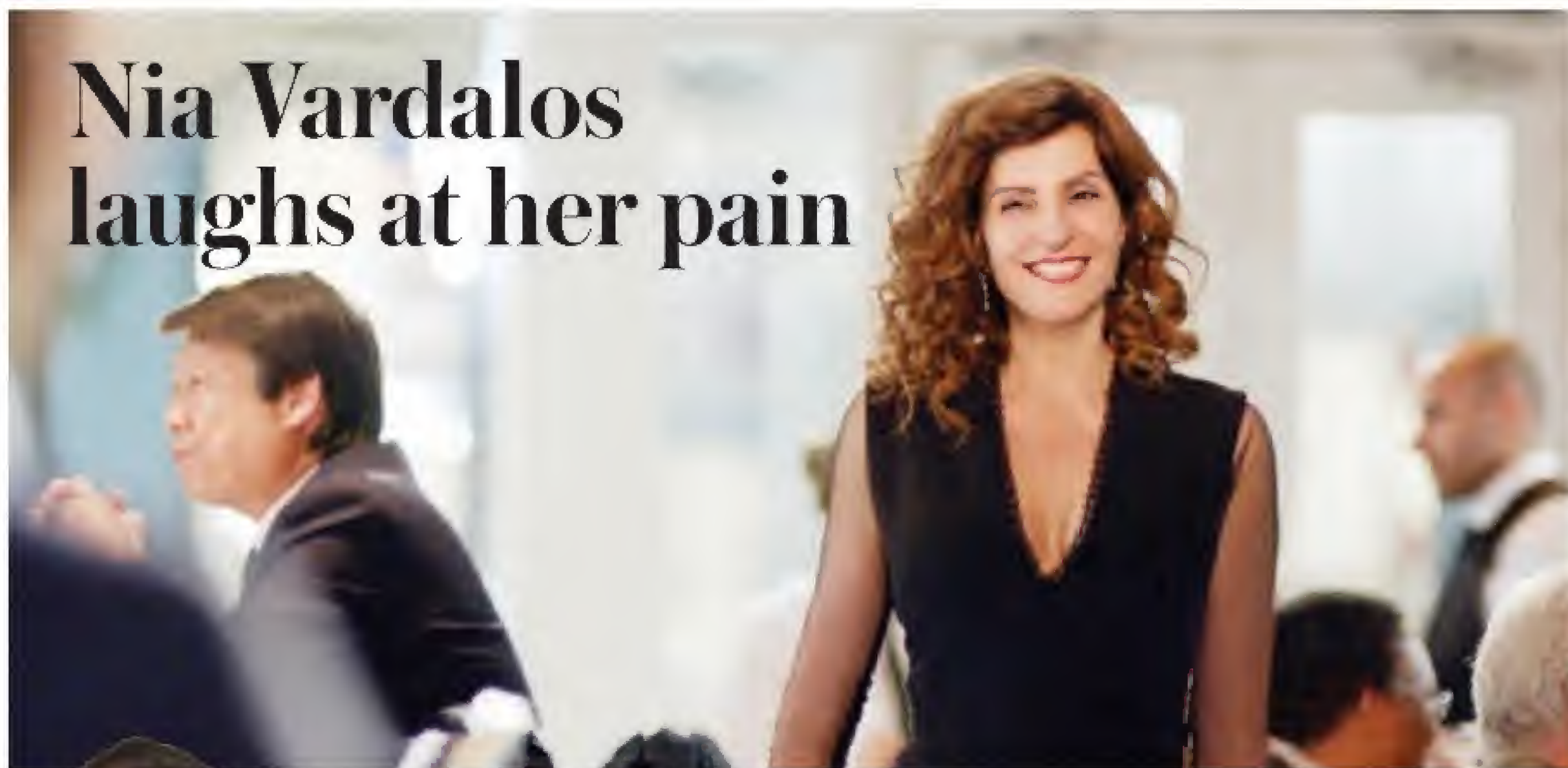
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Nia Vardalos laughs at her pain



Nia Vardalos' Toula returns 14 years after the first "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." UNIVERSAL



GETTY IMAGES

The actor-filmmaker talks "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" and protecting her daughter.



MATT PRIGGE
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As you can imagine, Nia Vardalos is always up for talking about her screw-ups.

"I live for loser stories," the actress and screenwriter tells us while promoting her new film, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2," the sequel to her 2002 surprise monster hit. "When the first movie came out and all the

craziness that came with it, I saw an ex-boyfriend, who had treated me badly. I'm not a vindictive person. I just want everyone to go on and have a happy life. But this dude was mean to me. So I saw him in the street and he says, 'What's going on, sunshine?' I thought, 'I'm finally having a moment where I can say I have a movie coming out.' I look back at him and a bird sh— on my head."

Pain, she says, is funny. That's one reason she didn't want to sugarcoat "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2." The sequel catches up with the same characters (and cast). Everyone's older, including Vardalos' Toula and her husband Ian, played again by John Corbett. Vardalos, now 53, who

again wrote the script, wanted to milk getting older and being a parent of a college-bound teen (played by Elena Kampouris) for laughs.

"I just wanted people to play their ages, including John and me," Vardalos explains. "That's why I resisted the temptation to write us as 32. I thought it would be a little respectful of the audience who grew up with the film, to see themselves reflected on screen, again."

Vardalos drew from her own experiences in becoming a mother between the first and second films. She and her husband Ian Gomez went through a rigorous, painful experience in adopting a daughter, Ilaria, which she chronicled in

the book "Instant Mom." Vardalos tries to protect her daughter's privacy, especially from paparazzi, which can be difficult.

"We have a game where we make it fun: She hides her face," Vardalos says. There was one time when things turned ugly: She caught a paparazzo taking her daughter's picture. She confronted him and the man kept claiming he didn't do it.

"I said, 'If I find those pictures online I'm going to find you,'" she says, laughing at how bold she was. Two days later she checked online and there they were. "My daughter was shocked. She said, 'But he said he didn't take it.' It was a terrible way to learn that adults lie. And yet, not a bad lesson."

On diversity

Vardalos is also, of course, a woman trying to create female stories in a Hollywood that's mostly about catering to young boys. The last year has found diversity finally becoming an issue that people want to talk about.

"It was a subject that was categorized as whining as opposed to being reality," she says. "It's been terrible, and #OscarsSoWhite was so important. It's not saying that men don't have a place in the workplace, that white people don't have a place in the workplace. We're just saying there are other stories."

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Don't be a jerk and spoil

The second season of "Daredevil" was just released last weekend on Netflix. Unlike with earlier Marvel series, I wasn't home to watch the entire thing, having been speaking on panels at Wizard World Las Vegas and begging people not to tell me what happened. So, while immersed in geek culture, there was one part of it that I couldn't talk about — which led to a discussion about spoilers.

We've all been spoiled for some show or film. I actually remember the first spoiler I ever encountered. When I was on the playground, I was told that Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia were brother and sister. In the midst of being squicked out, I was pretty pissed off. The movie had opened the night before and now I knew a huge plot point. Not cool, fellow first-graders. Not cool!

Here's the thing about spoilers: Some are accidental, but there are unofficial rules. First, journalists, don't post

JENNA BUSCH

Geek Girl in Hollywood

Jenna Busch takes on the way pop culture snubs its female fans. For more columns, visit metro.us/jenna-busch as well as her site, Legion of Leia (www.legionofleia.com).



who died in the title. Don't put a picture of the person who died on your front page, at least for a week. I know the first four lines of my Legion



We have no idea what's going on in this "Daredevil" image because no one's spoiled it to us yet. **NETFLIX**

of Leia articles show up on people's feeds, so all spoilers go below that with a warning. You get a week with movies. That said, you don't post them everywhere.

But wait! I saw the film. I should be able to tweet about the fact that so-and-so was killed in the new "Star Wars"

movie. Yes, you can — but no, you should not. Before the Internet, who the killer was in a book was a spoiler. You know that jerk at the water cooler who told everyone? Yeah, we all hated him, too. It's strange that so many people think that it's totally OK to be that jerk on the Internet because "free

speech, you guys." Sure, you have the right to say it. You're an a—, but you have the right.

For the nona—es, here's the deal: one spoiler-free week for movies and shows. Don't be a jerk, or I swear I'll tell you who died in that show you're not caught up on.

And studios, don't put

your film's conflict resolution in the trailer. (I'm looking at you, "Batman v Superman" and "Terminator Genysis.") Whether you're the guys making the film or show, the journalists writing about it or the guy at the water cooler, in the words of Wil Wheaton: Don't be a d—.

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home

Sticking with a few key colors instead of a rainbow assortment will elevate the table's decor. SAUL METWICK

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Setting the spring table

Want to freshen up that Easter brunch? It's all about the blooms.

Here, we share pro tips for elevating your arrangements.

 MONICA WEYMOUTH
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

It's been a while since we've had company. To be honest, it's been a while since we've eaten a meal at the table (winter is tough and couches are cozy — sorry, Mom). But with spring on the horizon, Easter right behind it and Mother's Day, as always, closer than you think, that's about to change.

With this in mind, we checked in with Bronwen Smith, owner and lead designer of Manhattan's B Floral, for some tips on freshening up the brunch table. Because here's what Pinterest will never tell you: When beautiful, sophisticated flowers are in the mix, no one will notice the chipped coffee mugs, mismatched plates and paper napkins.

Think seasonal

Early spring boasts some of the most gorgeous

blooms, so why not take a cue from the farm-to-table trend and stick with what's in season? "When picking flowers for spring table designs, we opt for common fan favorites like peonies, tulips and sweet peas," says Smith. "Peonies add fullness and life to an arrangement, while tulips and sweet peas embody the overall essence of spring."

Keep it simple

Supermarket bouquets are stuffed with a rainbow of colors and stems, which is exactly what you want to avoid. For an effortlessly chic, elevated arrangement, pick one color and one flower. "If you're looking to take a DIY centerpiece to the next level, try a sleek, modern, monochromatic or mono-flower design that is simple yet stunning," says Smith. "Stick to varying shades of the same spring color, such as purple, to achieve a polished look." As for the vase, choose something unique but not distracting — it's a supporting character, after all.

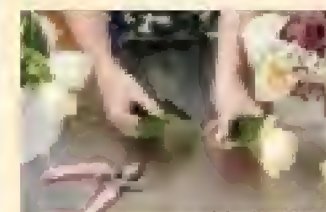
Go beyond the bouquet

The problem with

Keep 'em fresh

Cut flowers are living on borrowed time, true. But you can extend their life with these pro tips:

- Remove all leaves below the water line in your vase.
- Add a packet of flower food.
- Change the water every two to three days.



DIAD PHOTOGRAPHY

centerpieces is that, well, they're in the center. If you're feeling crafty and want to declutter the table, consider garlands or wreaths. "We love to think outside the vase and use flowers in the overall table design," says Smith. "Chair garlands add an unexpected touch, and floral wreaths show that flowers can shine outside of the vase." If you have little ones on the guest list, don't forget the flower crowns!

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No hyperbole here. This is already the greatest NCAA tournament we've ever seen.

The first Thursday and Friday of the tournament always offer the best stretch of excitement, but this year was really something else. A whopping 10 double-digit seeds pulled off upsets to advance to the Round of 32. One of those upsets is being hailed as the greatest tourney upset of all time — that being Middle Tennessee upending No. 2 seed Michigan State. The case for it is that Michigan State was basically a No. 1 seed, given that it had the second best odds to win the national championship and that it lost to a school that did not have a single top-90 RPI win all season (according to CBS Sports).

For reference — in the most prominent gambling pool I am a member of, an unbelievable 17-of-19 people picked Michigan State to reach the Final Four and nine of the 19 picked the Spartans to win the whole damn thing. Really, top overall seeds don't get that much respect most years. So we really did just witness a No. 1 seed lose in the first round, even though the NCAA history website won't say so.

And then there were the buzzer-beaters. The glorious, glorious buzzer-beaters. Paul Jaspersen's Stephen Curry-worthy halfcourt score to beat Texas was stunning. No way, on no planet, is that shot supposed to go in. But by the time the ball left the hands of Wisconsin's Bronson Koenig late Sunday night, you knew exactly where it was going.

Swish.

MATT BURKE

OPINION

Matt Burke is the National Sports Editor and a columnist at Metro US.

Follow him on Twitter @burke_metro



By Sunday night, everyone expected more miracles.

Without even discussing Texas A&M's historic rally against Jaspersen and Northern Iowa, it is for sure that this is the best NCAA tourney of all-time.

Now, basketball snobs will surely scoff at that idea. They'll say that the overall talent level in the college game is at an all-time low. They'll also say that there are zero powerhouse teams in this year's field.

And yeah. That's true.

But, so what?!

The NCAA tournament is not as popular as it is because of its particular talent level year-to-year. It is popular because it is the most unpredictable sporting event, year-to-year. It is popular because David beats Goliath. Like, a lot, year-to-year.



Northern Iowa had one of the all-time great wins last Friday and had one of the all-time heartbreakers just 48 hours later. GETTY IMAGES

The popularity of the event is justified in this case, too. Sure, the NFL is great, but damn there were there a lot of boring games this past season (Example A: Super Bowl 50).

Admittedly, the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight will not be as exciting for the general fan.

Mainly because all of the teams left are highly regarded college basketball programs and the David vs. Goliath element is mostly lost.

But because of the unprecedented parity in this particular Big Dance, we are guaranteed three or four Northern Iowa-level

finishes the rest of the way.

Many of us (myself at the top of the list), get far too caught up in sports storylines and scandal these days. Peyton Manning and the Tennessee scandal, Deflategate, Adam LaRoche vs. the White Sox, Hulk Hogan v. Gawker. Those are the

type of stories that get the most attention.

But sometimes, once in a great while, the games themselves grab top billing.

Looking forward to what the final two weekends of the greatest tournament we've ever seen has to offer.

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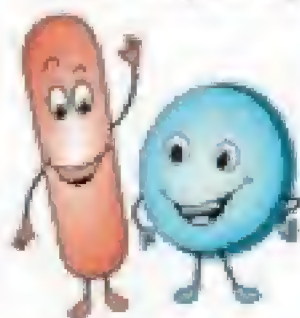
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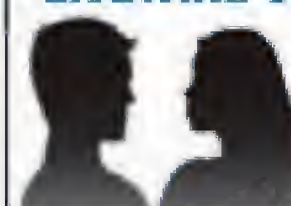
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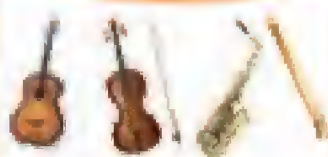
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The land with the buildings thereon situated on the Southernly side of Whitney Park in that part of Boston called Mattapan, and being part of lot A8 on a plan entitled "Corrected Plan of House Lots at Mattapan, belonging to Carrie S. Rockwell", dated February 1907, Frederick P. Hall, Surveyor, and recorded with Suffolk Deeds, Book 3187, Page 147 and being bounded and described as follows: NORTHWESTERLY by said Whitney Park, as shown on said plan, thirty-eight and 57/100 (38.57) feet; SOUTHWESTERLY by remaining portion of Lot A8 by a line running parallel with and twelve (12) feet Northeastly from the driving line between Lots A8 and A9, as shown on said plan, seventy and 8/10 (70.08) feet; SOUTHEASTERLY by land now or formerly of Woodward Jones as shown on said plan, about twenty-six and 26/100 (26.26) feet; and NORTHEASTERLY by the property of the Episcopal Church and formerly of One Weston and others, as shown on said plan, seventy-six and 40/100 (76.40) feet. Containing about twenty-four hundred sixty-eight (2468) square feet of land. Be any or all of said measurements and contents more or less, or however otherwise said premises may be measured, bounded or described. A deed from Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee to Donald L. Bloech herewith. Subject to a first mortgage. Upon information and belief this mortgage is subject to a senior mortgage recorded in said Registry of Deeds at Book 43171, Page 241.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, building and zoning laws, liens, attorney's fees and costs pursuant to M.G.L.Ch.183A, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession.

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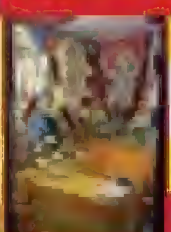
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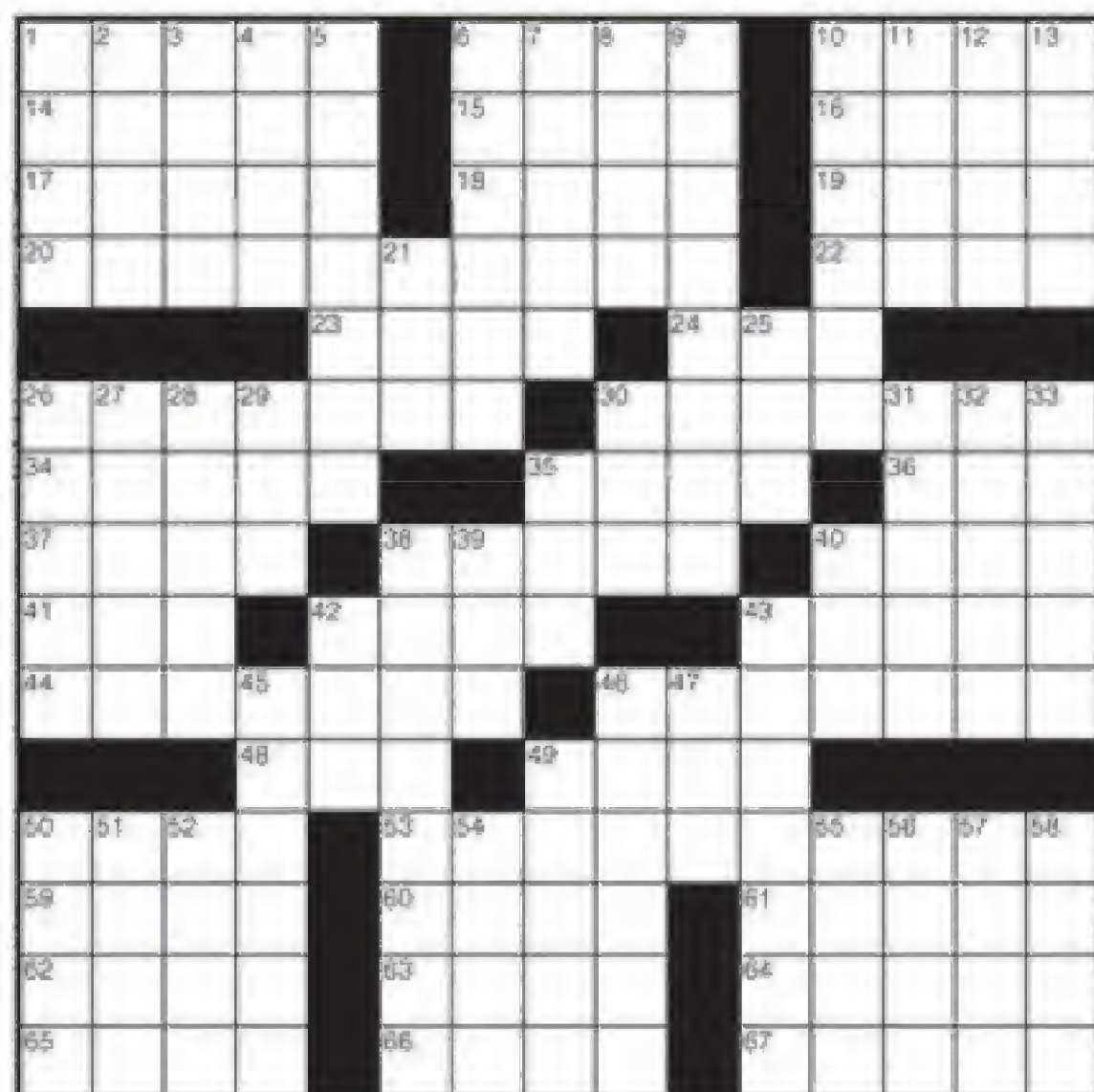
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Across

- 1 Can't help but (2 wds.)
- 6 Powder base
- 10 Spinach is rich in it
- 14 Leering sort
- 15 Potpourri
- 16 View from an oasis
- 17 Classic Tierney role
- 18 Daybreak, in verse
- 19 Down Under birds
- 20 Private eye's attire
- 22 Off. helper
- 23 Lettuce unit
- 24 Peoria's st.
- 26 Make wine
- 30 Ground, as teeth
- 34 Excludes
- 35 Modern word
- 36 Suffix for press
- 37 Dappled horse
- 38 Rather
- 40 Mars, to Plato
- 41 Legal rep.
- 42 Reunion attendee
- 43 Bedside item
- 44 Ached for
- 46 Gazes into the sun
- 48 USN rank
- 49 Globetrot
- 50 Sergeant's supper
- 53 Common fossils
- 59 Name in essays
- 60 "Othello" heavy

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- 61 Romantic interlude
- 62 "Fatha" Hines
- 63 Pointed arch
- 64 — Jean Baker
- 65 Elbow opposite
- 66 Techie
- 67 Melancholy

Down

- 1 Tim — of oaters
- 2 Culture dish goo
- 3 Veer off-course
- 4 Graceful seabird
- 5 Sibyls
- 6 Four-footed Romeo
- 7 Standoffish
- 8 Luigi's dollar, once

- 9 Go on
- 10 Things to uphold
- 11 Sugar cane products
- 12 Disagreeable task
- 13 Treetop refuge
- 21 Egg producer
- 25 Stripling
- 26 Raid
- 27 Ham it up
- 28 Gaucho's rope
- 29 Natural elev.
- 30 B-movie pistol
- 31 A Great Lake
- 32 Upright
- 33 Work stations
- 35 Fragment
- 38 Wonder about
- 39 Sturm — Drang
- 40 MacGraw of films
- 42 — Arbor, Michigan
- 43 Sidewalk edge
- 45 Used-car deal
- 46 Flew or sang alone
- 47 "— Vadis?"
- 49 Kind of lily
- 50 Too mild
- 51 Zest for life
- 52 King's address
- 54 Come unglued
- 55 Rock star, maybe
- 56 Greenhorn
- 57 "Blondie" kid
- 58 Close violently

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easy

5				6			9	
9			2				4	
				5		6		
6		1			4		2	
4	2		9	8	7		5	6
	5		1			9		4
		5		1				
	7				3			5
	1			9				7

hard

1						7	6	
				6	8			2
			3	7		4	8	
		7					9	
2	3		8		6		1	7
	6					2		
	4	9		8	7			
7			6	4				
	1	2						4

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Aries Avoid emotional meltdowns. Back away from bullies or insensitive people. Focus on facts and what it will take to get what you want or get you where you want to be.



Taurus Make your move and don't stop until you reach your destination. Let a past mistake help you make the right choice now. Romance will lead to certainty.



Gemini A strategic plan of attack will ensure your victory. Don't share personal information, or interference will result. Negotiate shrewdly and invest conservatively.



Cancer Do whatever it takes to bring about reforms that will improve your life and community. Target your goal and be persistent. Showing dedication will impress someone.



Leo Focus on your work and complete whatever job you are given. Complaints will be made if you don't honor a promise. Your ability to think fast and lead well will not go unnoticed.



Virgo You will gain knowledge if you share information and participate in educational functions. Networking, socializing or concentrating on a love interest will enhance your life.



Libra Consider making an investment or channeling money into your living space. Don't give in to emotional bickering. Avoid unpredictable people making empty promises.



Scorpio If you offer something unique, you will get something priceless in return. Create a situation that will bring about change and lead to more fun and personal happiness.



Sagittarius By making wise choices, you can gain the freedom to enjoy life and be surrounded by people who share your interests. Helping a worthy cause will lead to greater opportunities.



Capricorn A lifestyle that fits your personal goals will help you flourish. A different approach to your work will result in stability and reduced stress. Love is in the stars.

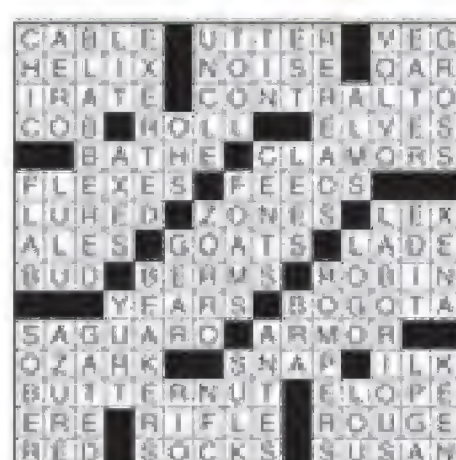


Aquarius Re-examine your goals and prioritize them to fit current possibilities. Trying to do everything at once will result in little getting done. A direct approach will lead to success.



Pisces Don't let emotional manipulation drag you down. A conservative, honest approach will help you avoid interference and assist you in building a solid plan for the future. **EUGENIA LAST**

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